Document made available under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)

International application number: PCT/EP05/002635

International filing date: 04 March 2005 (04.03.2005)

Document type: Certified copy of priority document

Document details: Country/Office: GB
Number: 0414204.8
Filing date: 24 June 2004 (24.06.2004)

Date of receipt at the International Bureau: 26 April 2005 (26.04.2005)

Remark: Priority document submitted or transmitted to the International Bureau in compliance with Rule 17.1(a) or (b)

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25JUN04 E906318-1 D02029
P01/7700 0.00-0414204.8 NONE

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1. Your reference	RK/PB60773P1
2. Patent application number *(The Patent Office will fill in his part)*	0414204.8 — 24 JUN 2004
3. Full name, address and postcode of the or of each applicant *(underline all surnames)* Patents ADP number *(if you know it)* If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its corporation.	Glaxo Group Limited Glaxo Wellcome House, Berkeley Avenue, Greenford, Middlesex UB6 0NN, Great Britain 473587003 United Kingdom
4. Title of the invention	Compounds
5. Name of your agent *(if you have one)* "Address for service" in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence should be sent *(including the postcode)* Patents ADP number *(if you know it)* 8072550006	Corporate Intellectual Property GlaxoSmithKline Corporate Intellectual Property (CN9 25.1) 980 Great West Road BRENTFORD Middlesex TW8 9GS

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7. Divisionals: etc Complete this section only if this application is a divisional application or resulted from an entitlement dispute (see note f)	Number of earlier application	Date of filing *(day / month / year)*

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Answer YES if:

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Continuation sheets of this form	
Description	25
Claim(s)	6
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Request for preliminary examination and search *(Patents Form 9/77)*	
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Any other documents *(please specify)*	

11. **I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application**

Signature(s) R Kondo

Date: 24-Jun-04

12. Name and daytime telephone number of person to contact in the United Kingdom

R Kondo 020 80474429

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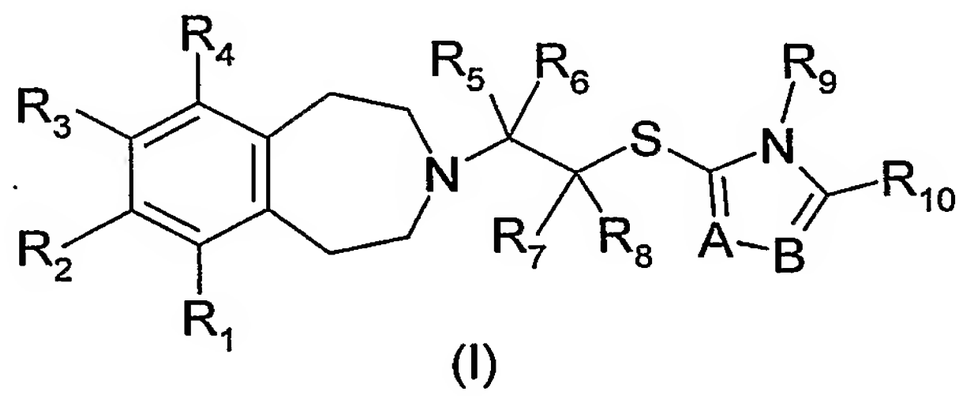
COMPOUNDS

The present invention relates to novel compounds, processes for their preparation, intermediates used in these processes, pharmaceutical compositions containing them and their use in therapy, as modulators of dopamine D_3 receptors, in particular as antipsychotic agents or as agents to treat various aspects of drug dependency.

WO 2002/40471 (SmithKline Beecham) discloses certain benzodiazepine compounds having activity at the dopamine D_3 receptor.

A new class of compounds which have affinity for dopamine receptors, in particular the dopamine D_3 receptor, has been found. These compounds have potential in the treatment of conditions wherein modulation, especially antagonism/inhibition, of the D_3 receptor is beneficial, e.g. as antipsychotic agents or to treat drug dependency.

The present invention provides a compound of formula (I) or a salt thereof:



(I)

wherein

- R_1 and R_4 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, bromo, C_{1-2}alkyl, C_1alkoxy, haloC_{1-2}alkyl, haloC_1alkoxy, hydroxy, cyano and nitro;
- R_2 and R_3 are independently selected from the group consisting of:

  halogen, hydroxy, cyano, nitro, C_{1-4}alkyl, haloC_{1-4}alkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, haloC_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkoxyC_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkylthio, C_{1-4}alkoxyC_{1-4}alkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkylC_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkanoyl, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonylC_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulfonyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulfonyloxy, haloC_{1-4}alkylsulfonyl, haloC_{1-4}alkylsulfonyloxy, C_{1-4}alkylsulfonylC_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulfonamido, C_{1-4}alkylsulfonamidoC_{1-4}alkyl, heterocyclyl, aryl, arylC_{1-4}alkoxy, aryloxy, arylthio, arylmethyl, aroyl, aryloxymethyl, arylsulfonyl, aryl-NR'- (wherein R' is hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl), arylsulfonyloxy, arylsulfonylC_{1-4}alkyl, arylsulfonamido, arylcarboxamido, arylsulfonamidoC_{1-4}alkyl, arylcarboxamidoC_{1-4}alkyl, aroylC_{1-4}alkyl, arylC_{1-4}alkanoyl, a group $R_{11}CON(R_{12})(CH_2)_r$, $R_{11}R_{12}NCO(CH_2)r$ or $R_{11}R_{12}NSO_2(CH_2)_r$ (in which r is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4, and each of R_{11} and R_{12} is independently hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl, or in the groups $R_{11}CON(R_{12})(CH_2)_r$, $R_{11}R_{12}NCO(CH_2)_r$ and

$R_{11}R_{12}NSO_2(CH_2)_r$, $R_{11}CONR_{12}$ or $R_{11}R_{12}N$ together form a 4-, 5-, 6- or 7-membered azacyclic group optionally containing one additional O, N or S atom in the azacycle and having 3-8 carbon atoms (including the carbon atoms contained in any optional substituent(s) of the azacycle)); wherein in any group containing an aryl moiety, the aryl may be substituted by one, two or three groups selected from the group consisting of halogen, hydroxy, cyano, nitro, amino, C_{1-4}alkyl, haloC_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, haloC_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkylenedioxy, C_{1-4}alkanoyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulfonyl, haloC_{1-4}alkylsulfonyl, C_{1-4}alkylamino, C_{1-4}dialkylamino, $R_{13}R_{14}NCO$ (in which R_{13} and R_{14} are independently hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl, or $R_{13}R_{14}N$ together form a 4-, 5-, 6- or 7-membered azacyclic group optionally containing one additional O, N or S atom in the azacycle and having 3-8 carbon atoms (including the carbon atoms contained in any optional substituent(s) of the azacycle));

- A and B are independently N or CH;
- R_5, R_6, R_7, R_8 and R_9 are independently hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl;
- R_{10} is a group of the formula (a) or (b):

(a) (b)

wherein:

- Z is C_{1-4}alkyl, haloC_{1-4}alkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, phenyl, heterocyclyl, a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic ring or a 8- to 11-membered bicyclic group, any of which is optionally substituted by 1, 2, 3 or 4 substituents selected from the group consisting of: halogen, hydroxy, oxo, cyano, nitro, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, haloC_{1-4}alkyl, haloC_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkylenedioxy, C_{1-4}alkanoyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulfonyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulfonyloxy, haloC_{1-4}alkylsulfonyl, haloC_{1-4}alkylsulfonyloxy, C_{1-4}alkylsulfinyl, C_{1-4}alkylthio, $R_{17}SO_2N(R_{18})$-, $R_{17}R_{18}NSO_2$-, $R_{17}R_{18}N$-, $R_{17}R_{18}NCO$-, $R_{17}CONR_{18}$- and a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic ring which is optionally substituted by one or two C_{1-2}alkyl, haloC_{1-2}alkyl or $R_{17}R_{18}N$- (wherein R_{17} and R_{18} are independently hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl, or R_{17} and R_{18} together form C_{3-6}alkylene); and wherein substituents positioned *ortho* to one another may be linked to form a 5- or 6-membered ring; and
- R_{15} and R_{16} are independently hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl and t is 1, 2, 3 or 4, or -$(CR_{15}R_{16})$t- forms a C_{3-6}cycloalkylene linker.

In formula (I), "-S-" means thio (sulfur).

The term "C_{1-4}alkyl" refers to an alkyl group having from one to four carbon atoms, in all isomeric forms, such as methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, isobutyl, sec-butyl and tert-butyl.

The term "alkylene" refers to a straight or branched chain divalent hydrocarbon radical. Examples of C_{1-3}alkylene groups include methylene, ethylene and n-propylene. Examples of "C_{1-4}alkylene" include, in addition to the above, n-butylene.

The term "C_{1-4}alkoxy" refers to a straight chain or branched chain alkoxy (or "alkyloxy") group having from one to four carbon atoms, such as methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, isopropoxy, butoxy, isobutoxy, sec-butoxy and tert-butoxy.

The term "halogen" and its abbreviation "halo" refer to fluorine (F), chlorine (Cl), bromine (Br) or iodine (I). Where the term "halo" is used before another group, it indicates that the group is substituted by one, two or three halogen atoms. For example, "haloC_{1-4}alkyl" refers to groups such as trifluoromethyl, bromoethyl, trifluoropropyl, and other groups derived from C_{1-4}alkyl groups as defined above; and the term "haloC_{1-4}alkoxy" refers to groups such as trifluoromethoxy, bromoethoxy, trifluoropropoxy, and other groups derived from C_{1-4}alkoxy groups as defined above.

The term "C_{1-4}alkoxyC_{1-4}alkyl " refers to a C_{1-4}alkoxy group attached through a C_{1-4}alkylene group, for example methoxymethyl, ethoxymethyl, propoxyethyl, isopropoxyethyl and others derived from the C_{1-4}alkoxy and C_{1-4}alkyl groups as defined above.

The term "C_{1-4}alkylthio" refers to a C_{1-4}alkyl group attached through a sulfur atom (-S-). Examples of C_{1-4}alkylthio include methylthio, ethylthio, propylthio and butylthio.

The term "C_{3-6}cycloalkyl" refers to a cycloalkyl group having from three to six carbon atoms, such as cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl and cyclohexyl. The term "C_{3-6}cycloalkylene" refers to a divalent cycloalkyl group, such as cyclopropylene, cyclobutylene, cyclopentylene and cyclohexylene.

The term "C_{3-6}cycloalkylC_{1-4}alkyl" refers to a cycloalkyl group attached through a C_{1-4}alkylene group, such as cyclopropylmethyl, cyclobutylethyl, and others derived from C_{3-6}cycloalkyl groups and C_{1-4}alkyl groups as defined above.

The term "aryl" refers to phenyl or a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic ring. Examples of 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic rings include furanyl, thienyl, pyrrolyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, imidazolyl, oxadiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyridinyl, triazolyl, triazinyl, pyridazyl, pyrimidinyl, isothiazolyl, isoxazolyl, pyrazinyl, pyrazolyl and pyrimidinyl.

The term "arylC_{1-4}alkyl" refers to an aryl group attached through a C_{1-4}alkylene group. The C_{1-6}alkylene group may be in any suitable isomeric form. Examples of arylC_{1-4}alkyl include benzyl, phenethyl (including phenyl-CH_2CH_2- and phenyl-C(CH_3)-) and others derived from the aryl groups and C_{1-4}alkyl groups as defined above.

The terms "arylC_{1-4}alkoxy" refers to an aryl group attached through a C_{1-4}alkoxy group. Examples of arylC_{1-4}alkoxy include benzyloxy (phenyl-CH_2O-) and phenylethoxy.

The term "sulfonyl" refers to the group -SO_2-. Thus, the term "C_{1-4}alkylsulfonyl" includes methylsulfonyl, ethylsulfonyl, and others derived from the C_{1-4}alkyl groups defined above. The term "haloC_{1-4}alkylsulfonyl" refers to groups such as trifluoromethanesulfonyl and pentafluoroethylsulfonyl. The term "arylsulfonyl" includes phenylsulfonyl, pyridinylsufonyl, and others derived from aryls as defined above.

The term "arylcarboxamido" refers to groups such as phenylcarboxamido and pyridinylcarboxamido, and others derived from the aryl groups as defined above.

The term "C_{1-4}alkylenedioxy" refers to groups such as methylenedioxy, ethylenedioxy and others derived from C_{1-4}alkyl as defined above.

The term "5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic ring" refers to a monocyclic 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic group containing 1, 2, 3 or 4 heteroatoms, for example from 1 to 3 heteroatoms, selected from O, N and S. When the group contains 2-4 heteroatoms, one may be selected from O, N and S and the remaining heteroatoms may be N. Examples of 5 and 6-membered heteroaromatic rings include pyrrolyl, pyrrolinyl, pyrazolinyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, oxadiazolyl, isothiazolyl, thiazolyl, furyl, thienyl, thiadiazolyl, pyridyl, triazolyl, thiazinyl, triazinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl and pyrazinyl.

The term "8- to 11-membered bicyclic group" refers to a bicyclic ring system containing a total of 8, 9, 10 or 11 carbon atoms, wherein 1, 2, 3 or 4 or 5 of the carbon atoms are optionally replaced by a heteroatom independently selected from O, S and N. The term includes bicyclic systems wherein both rings are aromatic, as well as bicyclic ring systems wherein one of the rings is partially or fully saturated. Examples of 8- to 11- membered bicyclic groups wherein both rings are aromatic include indenyl, naphthyl and azulenyl. Examples of 8- to 11-membered bicyclic groups having 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 heteroatoms, in which both rings are aromatic, include: 6*H*-thieno[2,3-*b*]pyrrolyl, imidazo[2,1-*b*][1,3]thiazolyl, imidazo[5,1-*b*][1,3]thiazolyl, [1,3]thiazolo[3,2-*b*][1,2,4]triazolyl, indolyl, isoindolyl, indazolyl, benzimidazolyl e.g. benzimidazol-2-yl, benzoxazolyl e.g. benzoxazol-2-yl, benzisoxazolyl, benzothiazolyl, benzisothiazolyl, benzothienyl, benzofuranyl, naphthridinyl, quinolyl, quinoxalinyl, quinazolinyl, cinnolinyl and isoquinolyl. Examples of 8- to 11-membered bicyclic groups having 1, 2, 3 , 4 or 5 heteroatoms, in which one of the rings is partially or fully saturated includes dihydrobenzofuranyl, indanyl, tetrahydronaphthyl, indolinyl, isoindolinyl, tetrahydroisoquinolinyl, tetrahydroquinolyl, benzoxazinyl and benzoazepinyl.

The term "heterocyclyl" refers to a 5 or 6-membered monocyclic or 8 to 11-membered bicyclic group wherein 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 of the carbon atoms are replaced by a heteroatom

independently selected from O, S and N and which is partially or fully saturated. Examples of "heterocyclyl" which are fully saturated 5 or 6-membered monocyclic rings include pyrrolidinyl, imidazolidinyl, pyrazolidinyl, isothiazolyl, thiazolyl, tetrahydrofuranyl, dioxolanyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, morpholinyl, thiomorpholinyl, tetrahydrothienyl, dioxanyl, tetrahydro-2*H*-pyranyl and dithianyl. Examples of "heterocyclyl" groups which are partially saturated 5 or 6-membered monocyclic rings include oxazolinyl, isoaxazolinyl, imidazolinyl, pyrazolinyl, 1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyridyl and 3,6-dihydro-2*H*-pyranyl. Examples of "heterocyclyl" groups which are fully saturated 8 to 11-membered bicyclic rings include decahydroquinolinyl, octahydro-2*H*-1,4-benzoxazinyl and octahydro-1*H*-cyclopenta[*b*]pyridinyl. Examples of "heterocyclyl" groups which are partially saturated 8 to 11-membered bicyclic rings include 2,3-dihydro-1*H*-indolyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinolinyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolinyl and 2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1*H*-3-benzazepinyl.

Any of these groups may be attached to the rest of the molecule at any suitable position.

As used herein, the term "salt" refers to any salt of a compound according to the present invention prepared from an inorganic or organic acid or base, quaternary ammonium salts and internally formed salts. Physiologically acceptable salts are particularly suitable for medical applications because of their greater aqueous solubility relative to the parent compounds. Such salts must clearly have a physiologically acceptable anion or cation. Suitably physiologically acceptable salts of the compounds of the present invention include acid addition salts formed with inorganic acids such as hydrochloric, hydrobromic, hydroiodic, phosphoric, metaphosphoric, nitric and sulfuric acids, and with organic acids, such as tartaric, acetic, trifluoroacetic, citric, malic, lactic, fumaric, benzoic, formic, propionic, glycolic, gluconic, maleic, succinic, camphorsulfuric, isothionic, mucic, gentisic, isonicotinic, saccharic, glucuronic, furoic, glutamic, ascorbic, anthranilic, salicylic, phenylacetic, mandelic, embonic (pamoic), methanesulfonic, ethanesulfonic, pantothenic, stearic, sulfinilic, alginic, galacturonic and arylsulfonic, for example benzenesulfonic and p-toluenesulfonic, acids; base addition salts formed with alkali metals and alkaline earth metals and organic bases such as N,N-dibenzylethylenediamine, chloroprocaine, choline, diethanolamine, ethylenediamine, meglumaine (N-methylglucamine), lysine and procaine; and internally formed salts. Salts having a non-physiologically acceptable anion or cation are within the scope of the invention as useful intermediates for the preparation of physiologically acceptable salts and/or for use in non-therapeutic, for example, *in vitro*, situations.

When R_2 or R_3 contains an aryl moiety, *ie* R_2 or R_3 is aryl, arylC_{1-4}alkoxy, aryloxy, arylthio, arylmethyl, aroyl, aryloxymethyl, arylsulfonyl, aryl-NR'-, arylsulfonyloxy, arylsulfonylC_{1-4}alkyl, arylsulfonamido, arylcarboxamido, arylsulfonamidoC_{1-4}alkyl, arylcarboxamidoC_{1-4}alkyl, aroylC_{1-4}alkyl or arylC_{1-4}alkanoyl, the aryl moiety is optionally substituted by one or two substituents selected from: halogen, cyano, C_{1-2}alkyl (e.g. methyl), fluoroC_{1-2}alkyl (eg trifluoromethyl), C_{1-2}alkoxy (e.g. methoxy), C_{1-2}alkylenedioxy (e.g. methylenedioxy), C_{1-3}alkanoyl (e.g. acetyl), C_2alkanoylamino (e.g.acetylamino), fluoroC_1alkylsulfonyl (e.g.

trifluoromethylsulfonyl) and methylsulfonyl. For example, the aryl moiety is optionally substituted by one or two methyl.

When R_2 or R_3 is a group $R_{11}CON(R_{12})(CH_2)_r$, $R_{11}R_{12}NCO(CH_2)r$ or $R_{11}R_{12}NSO_2(CH_2)_r$ and $R_{11}CONR_{12}$ or $R_{11}R_{12}N$ together form a 4-, 5-, 6- or 7-membered azacyclic group, then this is characterised by: (i) containing one additional O, N or S atom in the azacycle, for example the azacyclic group being 1,4-morpholin-4-yl and/or (ii) having 1 or 2 optional C_{1-2}alkyl substituents whose carbon atoms are included in the azacyclic group's 3-8 carbon atoms. One, two or more F atoms can optionally be included as substituents of the carbon atoms of the heterocycle. The term "azacyclic group" should be interpreted to cover only stable azacycles such as 1,4-morpholine and piperazine and not for example 1,3-morpholine. Saturated azacycles, in particular piperidinyl, pyrrolidinyl, 1,4-morpholinyl, and including the corresponding α-oxo-azacycles $R_{11}CONR_{12}$, are preferred.

In one embodiment, R_2 or R_3 is halogen, cyano, acetyl, trifluoromethyl, pentafluoroethyl, trifluoromethoxy, C_{1-4}alkylsulfonyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulfonyloxy, $R_{11}R_{12}NSO_2$ (where each of R_{11} and R_{12} is independently hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl or $R_{11}R_{12}N$ together form a 4-, 5-, 6- or 7-membered azacyclic group optionally containing one additional O, N or S atom in the azacycle and having 3-8 carbon atoms), a heterocyclyl, or a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic ring which is optionally substituted by one or two substituents selected from: halogen, cyano, C_{1-2}alkyl (e.g. methyl), haloC_{1-2}alkyl (e.g. trifluoromethyl), C_{1-2}alkoxy (e.g. methoxy), C_{1-2}alkylenedioxy (e.g. methylenedioxy), C_{1-3}alkanoyl (e.g. acetyl), C_2alkanoylamino (e.g.acetylamino), haloC_1alkylsulfonyl (e.g. trifluoromethylsulfonyl) and methylsulfonyl.

In one embodiment, R_3 is hydrogen.

Examples of R_2 include: C_{1-4}alkyl, haloC_{1-4}alkyl, halogen, C_{1-4}alkylsulfonyl (e.g. methylsulfonyl or ethylsulfonyl), haloC_{1-4}alkylsulfonyl (e.g. trifluoromethylsulfonyl), C_{1-4}alkylsulfonyloxy (e.g. methylsulfonyloxy), haloC_{1-4}alkylsulfonyloxy (e.g. trifluoromethylsulfonyloxy), $R_{11}R_{12}NSO_2$ (where each of R_{11} and R_{12} is independently hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl or $R_{11}R_{12}N$ together form a 4-, 5-, 6- or 7-membered azacyclic group optionally containing one additional O, N or S atom in the azacycle and having 3-8 carbon atoms, e.g. a piperidin-1-ylsulfonyl, pyrrolidin-1-ylsulfonyl or 1,4-morpholin-4-ylsulfonyl), a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic or a heterocyclyl, each of which is optionally substituted by one or two substituents selected from: halogen, cyano, C_{1-2}alkyl (e.g. methyl or trifluoromethyl), C_{1-2}alkoxy (e.g. methoxy), C_{1-2}alkylenedioxy (e.g. methylenedioxy), C_{1-3}alkanoyl (e.g. acetyl), C_2alkanoylamino (e.g.acetylamino), haloC_1alkylsulfonyl (e.g. trifluoromethylsulfonyl) and methylsulfonyl.

Suitably, R_2 is bromo, cyano, hydroxy, chloro, methoxy, tert-butyl, methylsulfonyl, ethylsulfonyl, N,N-dimethylaminosulfonyl, pyrrolidin-1-ylsulfonyl, 1,4-morpholin-4-ylsulfonyl,

methylsulfonyloxy, pyrazolyl (eg pyrazol-5-yl), 1,3-dimethyl-pyrazol-5-yl, pyrazin-2-yl, 5-methyl-oxazol-2-yl or 5-methyl-isoxazol-3-yl.

In one embodiment, at least one of R_1 and R_4 is hydrogen. For example, both R_1 and R_4 are hydrogen, or all of R_1, R_3 and R_4 are hydrogen.

In one embodiment, at least one of A and B is nitrogen. For example, A and B may both be nitrogen.

In one embodiment, R_5, R_6, R_7 and R_8 are all hydrogen.

In one embodiment, R_9 is methyl.

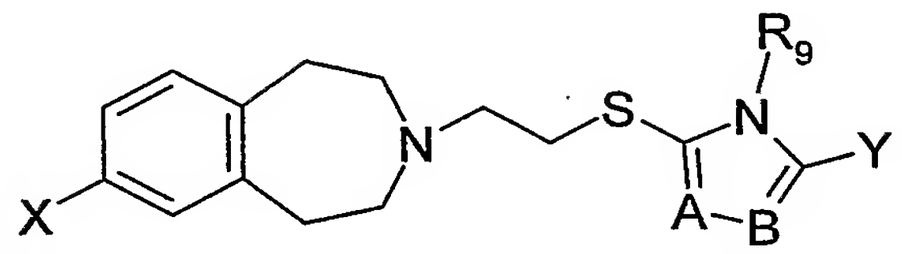
R_{10} may be formula (a) or (b). For formula (a) and (b), in one embodiment, Z may be optionally substituted phenyl such as 3,4-difluorophenyl, an optionally substituted monocyclic group such as pyrazinyl (eg 2-pyrazinyl), or an optionally substituted bicyclic group such as quinolinyl (e.g. 2-, 3-, 4-, 5- or 6-quinolinyl), 4-tetrahydro-2*H*-pyranyl, furyl (e.g. 2-furyl), thienyl (e.g. 2-thienyl), pyridyl (e.g. 4-pyridyl), indolyl, pyrazolopyrimidyl (e.g. pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidyl), cinnolinyl, benzo[b]furanyl, thienopyridine or pyrrolopyridyl. Examples of Z include 4-tetrahydro-2*H*-pyranyl, 4-trifluoromethylphenyl, furyl (e.g. 2-furyl), thienyl (e.g. 2-thienyl), pyridyl (e.g. 4-pyridyl), 2-methylquinolinyl (e.g. 2-methylquinolin-5-yl), 5-methyl-2-pyrazinyl, 3,4-difluorophenyl, and 4-methyl,3-oxazol-5-yl.

When R_{10} is a group of formula (b), and R_{12} and R_{13} are independently hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl and t is 1, 2, 3 or 4, examples include -(CH_2)-Z, and -$(CHCH_3)$-Z. When the group -$(CR_{15}R_{16})$t- in formula (b) forms a C_{3-6}cycloalkylene linker, examples include groups such as:

In one embodiment, Z is unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents selected from: halogen, or cyano, C_{1-2}alkyl (e.g. methyl), haloC_{1-2}alkyl (e.g. trifluoromethyl), C_{1-2}alkoxy (e.g. methoxy), haloC_{1-4}alkoxy (e.g. trifluoromethoxy), C_{1-2}alkylenedioxy (e.g. methylenedioxy), C_{2-3}alkanoyl (e.g. acetyl), C_2alkanoylamino (e.g.acetylamino), methylsulfonyl, haloC_1alkylsulfonyl (e.g. trifluoromethylsulfonyl), C_1alkylsulfonyloxy (e.g. methylsulfonyloxy), C_1alkylaminosulfonyl (e.g. methylaminosulfonyl), C_1alkylsulfonylamino (e.g. methylsulfonylamino) and C_1alkylaminocarbonyl (e.g. methylaminocarbonyl).

In one embodiment, R_{10} is a group of formula (a) as defined in formula (I). For example, R_{10} may be optionally substituted phenyl, such as unsubstituted phenyl or fluorophenyl (e.g. 4-fluorophenyl), or optionally substituted quinolinyl (e.g. 6-quinolinyl).

In one embodiment, a compound of formula (IA) or a salt thereof is provided:



(IA)

wherein

- A, B and R_9 are as defined for formula (I);
- X is a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic ring optionally substituted by 1, 2 or 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of: halogen, cyano, C_{1-2}alkyl, fluoroC_{1-2}alkyl, C_{1-2}alkoxy, C_{1-3}alkanoyl, C_2alkanoylamino, fluoroC_1alkylsulfonyl and methylsulfonyl; and
- Y is heterocyclyl, a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic ring or a 8- to 11-membered bicyclic group, any of which is optionally substituted by 1, 2, 3 or 4 substituents selected from the group consisting of: halogen, cyano, C_{1-2}alkyl, haloC_{1-2}alkyl, C_{1-2}alkoxy, haloC_{1-2}alkoxy, C_{1-2}alkylenedioxy, C_{2-3}alkanoyl, C_2alkanoylamino, methylsulfonyl, haloC_1alkylsulfonyl, methylsulfonyloxy, methylaminosulfonyl, methylsulfonylamino and methylaminocarbonyl.

All embodiments and features of formula (I) apply to formula (IA).

Example compounds of the present invention include:

1. 7-(5-Methyl-3-isoxazolyl)-3-(2-{[4-methyl-1,3-oxazol-5yl)-4H-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl]thio}ethyl)-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1H-3-benzazepine
2. 7-(5-Methyl-3-isoxazolyl)-3-(2-{[4-methyl-5-(tetrahydro-2H-pyran-4-yl)-4H-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl]thio}ethyl)-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1H-3-benzazepine
3. 7-(5-Methyl-3-isoxazolyl)-3-(2-{[4-methyl-5-(2-methyl-5-quinolinyl)-4H-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl]thio}ethyl)-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1H-3-benzazepine
4. 7-(5-Methyl-3-isoxazolyl)-3-(2-{[4-methyl-5-(2-methyl-6-quinolinyl)-4H-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl]thio}ethyl)-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1H-3-benzazepine
5. 7-(1,3-Dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-5-yl)-3-(2-{[4-methyl-5-(2-methyl-5-quinolinyl)-4*H*-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl]thio}ethyl)-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1*H*-3-benzazepine
6. 7-(1,3-Dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-5-yl)-3-(2-{[4-methyl-5-(5-methyl-2-pyrazinyl)-4*H*-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl]thio}ethyl)-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1*H*-3-benzazepine
7. 3-(2-{[5-(3,4-Difluorophenyl)-4-methyl-4*H*-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl]thio}ethyl)-7-(1,3-dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-5-yl)-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1*H*-3-benzazepine

and salts thereof.

It will be appreciated that for use in medicine the salts of the compounds of the invention should be pharmaceutically (i.e physiologically) acceptable. Suitable pharmaceutically acceptable salts will be apparent to those skilled in the art and include for example acid addition salts formed with inorganic acids e.g. hydrochloric, hydrobromic, sulfuric, nitric or phosphoric acid; and organic acids e.g. succinic, maleic, acetic, fumaric, citric, tartaric, benzoic, p-toluenesulfonic, methanesulfonic or naphthalenesulfonic acid. Other non-pharmaceutically acceptable salts eg. oxalates, may be used, for example in the isolation of compounds of the invention and are included within the scope of this invention. Also included within the scope of the invention are solvates, hydrates, complexes and prodrugs of compounds of the invention.

Certain of the compounds of the invention may form acid addition salts with less than one equivalent of the acid, or one or more equivalents of the acid. The present invention includes within its scope all possible stoichiometric and non-stoichiometric forms.

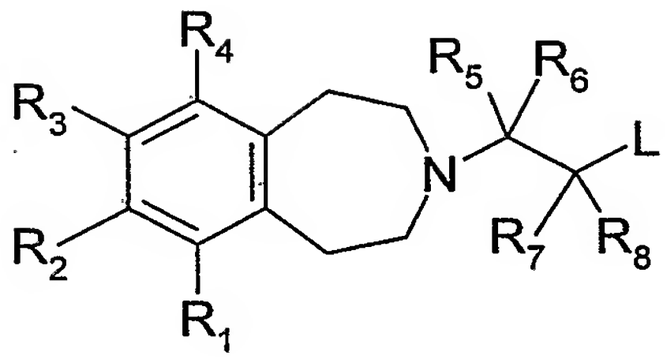
Certain groups/substituents included in the present invention may be present as isomers. The present invention includes within its scope all such isomers, including racemates, enantiomers, tautomers and mixtures thereof. Certain of the substituted heteroaromatic rings included in compounds of formula (I) may exist in one or more tautomeric forms. The present invention includes within its scope all such tautomeric forms, including mixtures.

Preferred compounds have a molecular weight of 800 or less. Still more preferred are compounds having a molecular weight of 600 or less. Generally, and without being limited thereto, such compounds may have higher oral bioavailability, and sometimes higher solubility and/or brain penetrancy. Molecular weight here refers to that of the unsolvated free base compound, excluding any molecular weight contributed by addition salts, solvent (e.g. water) molecules, prodrug molecular parts cleaved off *in vivo*, etc.

In general, the compounds or salts of the invention should be interpreted as excluding those compounds (if any) which are so chemically unstable, either per se or in water, that they are clearly unsuitable for pharmaceutical use through all administration routes, whether oral, parenteral or otherwise. Such compounds are known to the skilled chemist. Prodrugs or compounds which are stable *ex vivo* and which are convertable in the mammalian (e.g. human) body to the inventive compounds are however included.

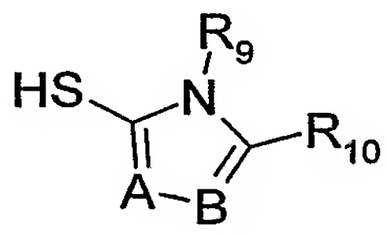
The present invention also provides a process for preparing a compound of formula (I), which process comprises:

(a) reacting a compound of formula (II):



(II)

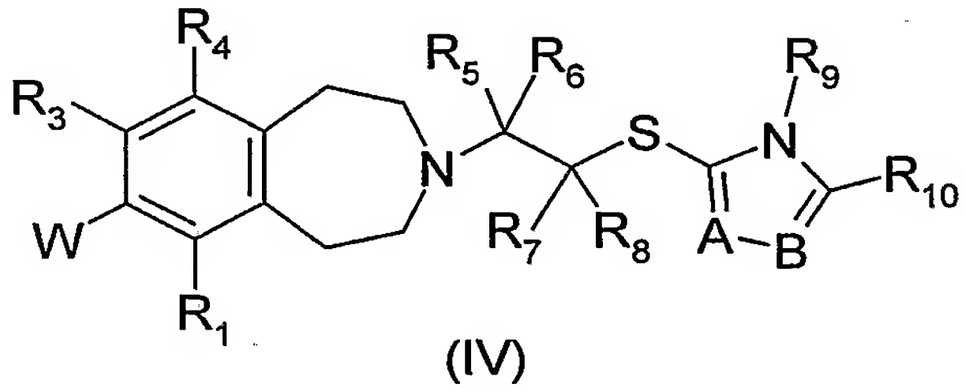
wherein R_1 to R_8 are as defined for formula (I) and L is a leaving group; with a compound of formula (III):



(III)

wherein A, B, R_9 and R_{10} are as defined for formula (I); or

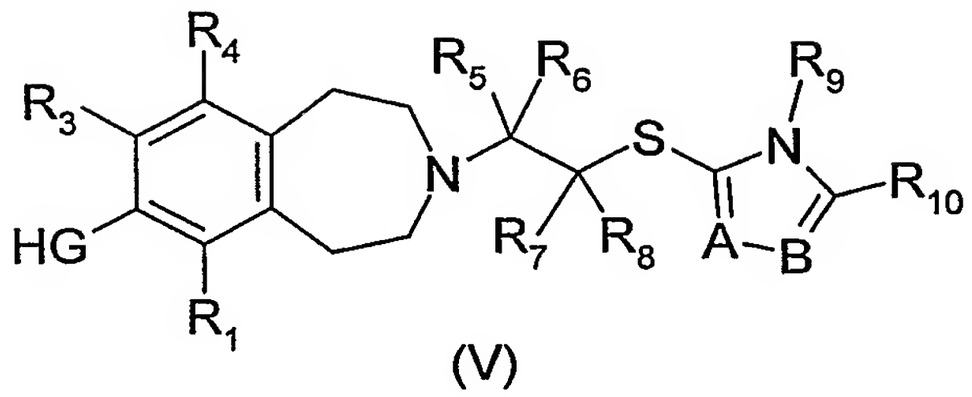
(b) for a compound of formula (I) wherein R_2 is aryl, reacting a compound of formula (IV):



(IV)

wherein R_1, R_3 to R_{10}, A and B are as defined for formula (I) and W is halogen or a trifluoromethylsulfonyloxy group, or W is a group M selected from a boron derivative (e.g. a boronic acid function $B(OH)_2$) or a metal function such as trialkylstannyl (e.g. $SnBu_3$), zinc halide or magnesium halide; with a compound aryl-W^1, wherein aryl is as defined for formula (I), W^1 is halogen or a trifluoromethylsulfonyloxy group when W is a group M or W^1 is a group M as defined above when W is halogen or a trifluoromethylsulfonyloxy group; or

(c) for a compound of formula (I) wherein R_2 is aryloxy or arylthio, reacting a compound of formula (V):



(V)

wherein G is oxygen or sulfur, and R_1, R_3 to R_{10}, A and B are as defined for formula (I);
with a reagent serving to introduce the aryl group;

and optionally thereafter for any of the steps (a), (b) or (c):

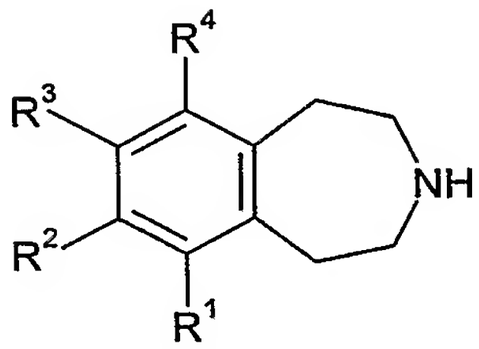
- removing any protecting group(s); and/or
- forming a salt; and/or
- converting one compound of formula (I) to a different compound of formula (I).

Process (a) may be effected using conventional methods for the formation of a thioether. The leaving group L can be halogen such as chlorine. Alternatively L can be a sulfonyloxy group such C_{1-4}alkylsulfonyloxy (e.g. methanesulfonyloxy or trifluoromethanesulfonyloxy); or AR'-sulfonyloxy wherein AR' is optionally substituted phenyl, an optionally substituted 5- or 6-membered aromatic heterocyclic group, or an optionally substituted bicyclic group, preferably optionally substituted phenyl, wherein in each case the optional substituents are one or more C_{1-2}alkyl groups; e.g. *para*-toluenesulfonyloxy. When L is a halogen the reaction may be carried out using a base such as lithium hydroxide in a solvent such as *N,N*-dimethylformamide.

The reaction in process (b), and the reaction in process (d), may be effected in the presence of a transition metal e.g., palladium catalyst such as *bis*-triphenylphosphinepalladium dichloride or *tetrakis*-triphenylphosphinepalladium (0). When M is a boronic acid function such as $B(OH)_2$the reaction may be carried out under basic conditions, for example using aqueous sodium carbonate in a suitable solvent such as dioxane. When M is trialkylstannyl the reaction may be carried out in an inert solvent, such as xylene or dioxane optionally in the presence of LiCl. When M is a zinc or magnesium halide the reaction may be effected in an aprotic solvent such as tetrahydrofuran. The substituent W is preferably halogen such as bromine, or a sulfonyloxy group such as trifluoromethylsulfonyloxy; and W^1 is preferably a group M, such as trialkylstannyl or $B(OH)_2$.

In process (c), the reagent serving to introduce the aryl group is preferably a compound of formula aryl-Hal, wherein Hal is halogen. The reaction may be effected in the presence of a base, such as potassium carbonate, in a solvent such as *N,N*-dimethylformamide.

A compound of formula (II) may itself be prepared by reacting a compound of formula (VII):



Formula (VII)

wherein R^1 to R^4 are as hereinbefore defined; with a compound of formula (VIII):

$$L'CH_2CH_2L$$

Formula (VIII)

wherein L is as herein defined and L' is a leaving group, e.g., a bromine atom or alternatively with a compound of formula (IX)

$$OHCCH_2L$$

Formula (IX)

wherein L is as herein defined, in the presence of a hydride source such as sodium triacetoxyborohydride.

Compounds of formula (I) may be converted to another compound of formula (I) by suitable methods known to the skilled person, such as:
(i) converting one or more of R_1 to R_4 from alkoxy (e.g.methoxy) to hydroxyl; and
(ii) converting one or more of R_2 or R_3 from hydroxy to sulfonyloxy, such as alkylsulfonyloxy e.g. methanesulfonyloxy or trifluoromethanesulfonyloxy.

Compounds of formula (I) have been found to exhibit affinity for dopamine receptors, in particular the D_3 receptor, and are expected to be useful in the treatment of disease states which require modulation of such receptors, such as psychotic conditions. Many of the compounds of formula (I) have also been found to have greater affinity for dopamine D_3 than for D_2 receptors. Compounds for formula (I) have also been found to exhibit low affinity for the H1 receptor. A low affinity for the H1 receptor generally leads to avoidance of: (1) sedation, somnolence, and fatigue; (2) cardiotoxicity; (3) potentiation of opioid-induced sedation and respiratory depression; (4) short-term weight gain; (5) impaired cognition (memory, spatial cognition, attention, tracking performance); (6) impaired psychomotor performance including quick tolerance to these effects, and (7) altered neuroendocrine regulation of prolactin and potentially other hormones.

The therapeutic effect of currently available antipsychotic agents (neuroleptics) is generally believed to be exerted via blockade of D_2 receptors; however this mechanism is also thought to be responsible for undesirable extrapyramidal side effects (eps) associated with many neuroleptic agents. Without wishing to be bound by theory, it has been suggested that blockade of the more recently characterised dopamine D_3 receptor may give rise to beneficial antipsychotic activity without significant eps. (see for example Sokoloff et al, Nature, 1990; 347: 146-151; and Schwartz et al, Clinical Neuropharmacology, Vol 16, No. 4, 295-314, 1993). Preferred compounds of the present invention are therefore those which have higher (e.g. ≥10x or ≥100x higher) affinity for dopamine D_3 than dopamine D_2 receptors (such affinity can be measured using standard methodology for example using cloned dopamine receptors – see herein). Said compounds may advantageously be used as selective modulators of D_3 receptors.

Compounds of formula (I) will be used for treatment of all aspects of drug dependency including prevention of relapse to and relief of withdrawal symptoms from drugs of abuse such as nicotine, alcohol, cocaine, amphetamine, metamphetamine, opiates, benzodiazepines, inhalants and inhibition of tolerance induced by opioids. In addition, compounds of formula (I) and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates thereof will be used to reduce craving and therefore will be useful in the treatment of drug craving. Drug craving can be defined as the incentive motivation to self-administer a psychoactive substance that was previously consumed. Three main factors are involved in the development and maintenance of drug craving: (1) Dysphoric states during drug withdrawal can function as a negative reinforcer leading to craving; (2) Environmental stimuli associated with drug effects can become progressively more powerful (sensitization) in controlling drug seeking or craving, and (3) A cognition (memory) of the ability of drugs to promote pleasurable effects and to alleviate a dysphoric state during withdrawal. Craving may account for the difficulty that individuals have in giving up drugs of abuse and therefore contributes significantly to the maintenance of drug dependence and the probability of relapse or reinstatement of drug seeking and drug taking behaviors.

The compounds of formula (I) are of potential use as antipsychotic agents for example in the treatment of schizophrenia, schizo-affective disorders, psychotic depression, mania, paranoid and delusional disorders. Furthermore, they could have utility as adjunct therapy in Parkinsons Disease, particularly with compounds such as L-DOPA and possibly dopaminergic agonists, to reduce the side effects experienced with these treatments on long term use (e.g. see Schwartz et al., Brain Res. Reviews, 1998, 26, 236-242). From the localisation of D3 receptors, it could also be envisaged that the compounds could also have utility for the treatment of substance abuse where it has been suggested that D3 receptors are involved (e.g. see Levant, 1997, Pharmacol. Rev., 49, 231-252). Examples of such substance abuse include alcohol, cocaine, heroin and nicotine abuse. Other conditions which may be treated by the compounds include dyskinetic disorders such as Parkinson's disease, neuroleptic-induced parkinsonism and tardive dyskinesias; depression; anxiety, cognitive impairment including memory disorders such as Alzheimers

disease, eating disorders, sexual dysfunction, sleep disorders, emesis, movement disorders, obsessive-compulsive disorders, amnesia, aggression, autism, vertigo, dementia, circadian rhythm disorders and gastric motility disorders e.g. IBS.

In a further aspect therefore the present invention provides a method of treating a condition for which modulation (especially antagonism/inhibition) of dopamine receptors (especially dopamine D_3 receptors) is beneficial, which comprises administering to a mammal (e.g. human) in need thereof an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically (i.e physiologically) acceptable salt thereof. Such conditions in particular include psychoses/psychotic conditions such as schizophrenia, and substance abuse and/or drug dependency. For example, the condition to be treated may be craving for abused substance and/or relapse to drug seeking and drug taking behaviour.

The invention also provides the use of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a condition in a mammal for which modulation (especially antagonism/inhibition) of dopamine receptors (especially dopamine D_3 receptors) is beneficial.

The invention also provides a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof for use in the treatment of a condition in a mammal for which modulation (especially antagonism/inhibition) of dopamine receptors (especially dopamine D_3 receptors) is beneficial.

In one embodiment, D_3 antagonists according to the present invention are used in the treatment of psychoses such as schizophrenia or in the treatment of substance abuse and/or drug dependency.

Thus, a still further aspect the invention provides a method of treating a psychotic condition (e.g. schizophrenia) or substance abuse and/or drug dependency which comprises administering to a mammal (e.g. human) in need thereof an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) as herein defined or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Also provided is the use of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a psychotic condition (e.g. schizophrenia) or substance abuse and/or drug dependency in a mammal.

Also provided is a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof for use in the treatment of a psychotic condition (e.g. schizophrenia) or substance abuse and/or drug dependency in a mammal.

Also provided is a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof for use as an active therapeutic substance in a mammal, e.g. for use in the treatment of any of the conditions described herein.

"Treatment" includes prophylaxis, where this is appropriate for the relevant condition(s).

For use in medicine, the compounds of the present invention are usually administered as a standard pharmaceutical composition. The present invention therefore provides in a further aspect a pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically (i.e physiologically) acceptable salt thereof and a pharmaceutically (i.e physiologically) acceptable carrier. The pharmaceutical composition can be for use in the treatment of any of the conditions described herein.

The compounds of formula (I) may be administered by any convenient method, for example by oral, parenteral (e.g. intravenous), buccal, sublingual, nasal, rectal or transdermal administration and the pharmaceutical compositions adapted accordingly.

The compounds of formula (I) and their pharmaceutically acceptable salts which are active when given orally can be formulated as liquids or solids, for example syrups, suspensions or emulsions, tablets, capsules and lozenges.

A liquid formulation will generally consist of a suspension or solution of the compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt in a suitable liquid carrier(s) for example an aqueous solvent such as water, ethanol or glycerine, or a non-aqueous solvent, such as polyethylene glycol or an oil. The formulation may also contain a suspending agent, preservative, flavouring or colouring agent.

A composition in the form of a tablet can be prepared using any suitable pharmaceutical carrier(s) routinely used for preparing solid formulations. Examples of such carriers include magnesium stearate, starch, lactose, sucrose and cellulose.

A composition in the form of a capsule can be prepared using routine encapsulation procedures. For example, pellets containing the active ingredient can be prepared using standard carriers and then filled into a hard gelatin capsule; alternatively, a dispersion or suspension can be prepared using any suitable pharmaceutical carrier(s), for example aqueous gums, celluloses, silicates or oils and the dispersion or suspension then filled into a soft gelatin capsule.

Typical parenteral compositions consist of a solution or suspension of the compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt in a sterile aqueous carrier or parenterally acceptable oil, for example polyethylene glycol, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, lecithin, arachis oil or sesame oil. Alternatively, the solution can be lyophilised and then reconstituted with a suitable solvent just prior to administration.

Compositions for nasal administration may conveniently be formulated as aerosols, drops, gels and powders. Aerosol formulations typically comprise a solution or fine suspension of the active substance in a pharmaceutically acceptable aqueous or non-aqueous solvent and are usually presented in single or multidose quantities in sterile form in a sealed container, which can take the form of a cartridge or refill for use with an atomising device. Alternatively the sealed container may be a unitary dispensing device such as a single dose nasal inhaler or an aerosol dispenser fitted with a metering valve which is intended for disposal once the contents of the container have been exhausted. Where the dosage form comprises an aerosol dispenser, it will contain a propellant which can be a compressed gas such as compressed air or an organic propellant such as a fluoro-chlorohydrocarbon. The aerosol dosage forms can also take the form of a pump-atomiser.

Compositions suitable for buccal or sublingual administration include tablets, lozenges and pastilles, wherein the active ingredient is formulated with a carrier such as sugar and acacia, tragacanth, or gelatin and glycerin.

Compositions for rectal administration are conveniently in the form of suppositories containing a conventional suppository base such as cocoa butter.

Compositions suitable for transdermal administration include ointments, gels and patches.

In one embodiment, the composition is in unit dose form such as a tablet, capsule or ampoule.

Each dosage unit for oral administration contains for example from 1 to 250 mg (and for parenteral administration contains for example from 0.1 to 25 mg) of a compound of the formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof calculated as the free base.

The pharmaceutically acceptable compounds of the invention will normally be administered in a daily dosage regimen (for an adult patient) of, for example, an oral dose of between 1 mg and 500 mg, for example between 10 mg and 400 mg, e.g. between 10 and 250 mg or an intravenous, subcutaneous, or intramuscular dose of between 0.1 mg and 100 mg, for example between 0.1 mg and 50 mg, e.g. between 1 and 25 mg of the compound of the formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof calculated as the free base, the compound being administered 1 to 4 times per day. Suitably the compounds will be administered for a period of continuous therapy, for example for a week or more.

Biological Test Methods

Binding experiments on cloned dopamine (e.g. D2, D3 and D4) receptors

The ability of the compounds to bind selectively to human D2/D3/D4 dopamine receptors can be demonstrated by measuring their binding to cloned receptors. The inhibition constants (K_i) of test compounds for displacement of [^{125}I]-Iodosulpride binding to human D2/D3 and [^{3}H]-YM-09151 to D4 dopamine receptors expressed in CHO cells were determined as follows. The cell lines were shown to be free from bacterial, fungal and mycoplasmal contaminants, and stocks of each were stored frozen in liquid nitrogen. Cultures were grown as monolayers or in suspension in standard cell culture media. Cells were recovered by scraping (from monolayers) or by centrifugation (from suspension cultures), and were washed two or three times by suspension in phosphate buffered saline followed by collection by centrifugation. Cell pellets were stored frozen at -80°C. Crude cell membranes were prepared by homogenisation followed by high-speed centrifugation, and characterisation of cloned receptors achieved by radioligand binding.

Preparation of CHO cell membranes: Cell pellets were gently thawed at room temperature, and resuspended in about 20 volumes of ice-cold Extraction buffer; 5mM EDTA, 50mM Trizma pre-set crystals (pH7.4@37°C), 1mM $MgCl_2$, 5mM KCl and 120mM NaCl. The suspension was homogenised using an Ultra-Turrax at full speed for 15 seconds. The homogenate was centrifuged at 18,000 r.p.m for 15 min at 4°C in a Sorvall RC5C centrifuge. Supernatant was discarded, and homogenate re-suspended in extraction buffer then centrifugation was repeated. The final pellet was resuspended in 50mM Trizma pre-set crystals (pH 7.4 @ 37°C) and stored in 1ml aliquot tubes at –80°C (D2 = 3.0E+08 cells, D3 = 7.0E+07 cells and D4 = 1.0E+08 cells). The protein content was determined using a BCA protocol and bovine serum albumin as a standard (Smith, P. K., et al., Measurement of protein using bicinchoninic acid. Anal. Biochem. 150, 76-85 (1985)).

Binding experiments: Crude D2/D3 cell membranes were incubated with 0.03nM [^{125}I]-Iodosulpride (~2000 Ci/mmol; Amersham, U. K.) and D4 with 0.8nM [^{3}H]-YM-09151 (~85Ci/mmol; NEN, UK), and the test compound in a buffer containing 50mM Trizma pre-set crystals (pH 7.4 @ 37°C), 120mM NaCl, 5mM KCl, 2mM $CaCl_2$, 1mM $MgCl_2$, 0.3% (w/v) bovine serum albumin. The total volume is 0.2ml and incubated in a water bath at 37°C for 40 minutes. Following incubation, samples were filtered onto GF/B Unifilters using a Canberra Packard Filtermate, and washed four times with ice-cold 50mM Trizma pre-set crystals (pH 7.4 @ 37°C). The radioactivity on the filters was measured using a Canberra Packard Topcount Scintillation counter. Non-specific binding was defined with 10μM SKF-102161 (YM-09151). For competition curves, 10 serial log concentrations of competing cold drug were used (Dilution range: 10μM-10pM). Competition curves were analysed using Inflexion, an iterative curve fitting programme in Excel. Results were expressed as pKi values where pKi = -log10[Ki].

The exemplified compounds have pKi values within the range of 7.5 - 9.5 at the dopamine D3 receptor. pKi results are only estimated to be accurate to about ±0.3-0.5.

Functional Activity at cloned dopamine receptors

The functional activity of compounds at human D2 and human D3 receptors (i.e. agonism or antagonism) may be determined using a Cytosensor Microphysiometer (McConnell HM et al Science 1992 257 1906-1912). In Microphysiometer experiments, cells (hD2_CHO or hD3_CHO) were seeded into 12mm Transwell inserts (Costar) at 300000 cells/cup in foetal calf serum (FCS)-containing medium. The cells were incubated for 6h at 37°C in 5%CO_2, before changing to FCS-free medium. After a further 16-18h, cups were loaded into the sensor chambers of the Cytosensor Microphysiometer (Molecular Devices) and the chambers perfused with running medium (bicarbonate-free Dulbecco's modified Eagles medium containing 2 mM glutamine and 44 mM NaCl) at a flow rate of 100 ul/min. Each pump cycle lasted 90s. The pump was on for the first 60s and the acidification rate determined between 68 and 88s, using the Cytosoft programme. Test compounds were diluted in running medium. In experiments to determine agonist activity, cells were exposed (4.5 min for hD2, 7.5 min for hD3) to increasing concentrations of putative agonist at half hour intervals. Seven concentrations of the putative agonist were used. Peak acidification rate to each putative agonist concentration was determined and concentration-response curves fitted using Robofit [Tilford, N.S., Bowen, W.P. & Baxter, G.S. Br. J. Pharmacol. (1995), Vol. 115, 160P]. In experiments to determine antagonist potency, cells were treated at 30 min intervals with five pulses of a submaximal concentration of quinpirole (100 nM for hD2 cells, 30 nM for hD3 cells), before exposure to the lowest concentration of putative antagonist. At the end of the next 30 min interval, cells were pulsed again with quinpirole (in the continued presence of the antagonist) before exposure to the next highest antagonist concentration. In all, five concentrations of antagonist were used in each experiment. Peak acidification rate to each agonist concentration was determined and concentration-inhibition curves fitted using Robofit.

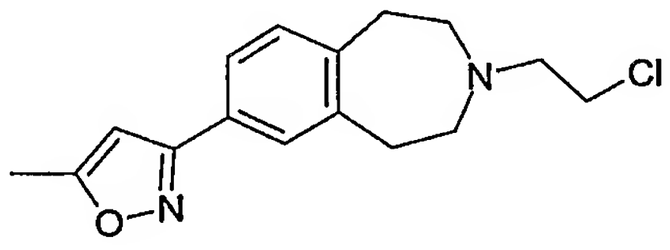
Human Histamine H1 receptor activity

Activity at the human Histamine H1 receptor can be measured using the general culture and assay conditions described in, for example, Smart et al, British Journal of Pharmacology (1999) 128, 1-3.

Examples

The invention is further illustrated by the following non-limiting examples.

Preparation 1: 3-(2-Chloroethyl)-7-(5-methyl-3-isoxazolyl)-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1*H*-3-benzazepine

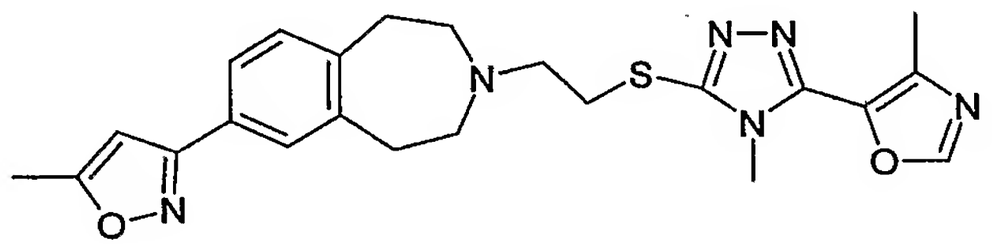


To a solution of 7-(5-methyl-3-isoxazolyl)-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1*H*-3-benzazepine (WO0240471A2) (0.21 g, 0.92 mol) in a mixture of dichloroethane (2 mL) and acetonitrile

(2 mL) at room temperature was added chloroacetaldehyde (0.23 mL) followed by sodium triacetoxyborohydride (0.39 g). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h. Solvent was removed *in vocuo* and the residue was dissolved in water (5 mL) and CH_2Cl_2 (5 mL). The mixture was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (3X5 mL) and the organic layer was dried over Na_2SO_4. Filtration and evaporation gave the crude product which was purified by flash chromatography (silica gel/ethylacetate:cyclohexanes 2:8) to give 0.11 g of the title compound (41% yield).

NMR (^{1}H, $CDCl_3$): δ 7.5 (m, 1H), 7.45 (m, 1H), 7.15 (m, 1H), 6.2 (s, 1H), 3.60-3.55 (m, 2H), 2.95-2.85 (m, 6H), 2.75-2.70 (m, 4H), 2.45 (s, 3H).

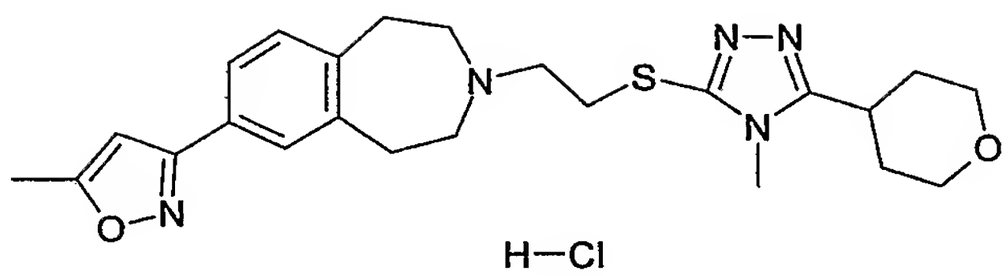
Example 1: 7-(5-Methyl-3-isoxazolyl)-3-(2-{[4-methyl-1,3-oxazol-5yl)-4*H*-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl]thio}ethyl)-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1*H*-3-benzazepine hydrochloride



To a solution of 3-(2-chloroethyl)-7-(5-methyl-3-isoxazolyl)-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1*H*-3-benzazepine (0.03 g, 0.10 mmol) in dry DMF (0.5 mL), 4-methyl-5-(4-methyl-1,3-oxazol-5-yl)-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole-3-thiol (WO0240471A2) (0.10 mmol) was added followed by LiOH (0.14 mmol) and NaI (0.10 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 90 °C for 16 h. Solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the residue was dissolved in water (5 mL) and CH_2Cl_2 (5 mL). The mixture was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (3X5 mL) and the organic layer was dried over Na_2SO_4. Filtration and evaporation gave the crude product which was purified by flash chromatography (silica gel/ CH_2Cl_2:MeOH 9:1) to give the free base of the title compound. To a solution of this material in CH_2Cl_2 (0.2 mL) was added 0.14 mmol of HCl (1M in Et_2O), the solvent evaporated *in vacuo* and the material thus obtained triturated with Et_2O to give 34 mg of the title compound as a white slightly hygroscopic solid (70% yield).

NMR (^{1}H, MeOD): δ 8.4 (s, 1H), 7.75 (d, 1H), 7.7 (dd, 1H), 7.41 (d, 1H), 6.6 (s, 1H), 4.0-3.84 (m, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.78-3.70 (m, 4H), 3.52-3.18 (m, 6H) 2.51 (s, 3H), 2.47 (s, 3H).
MS (*m/z*): 451.2 $[MH]^+$.

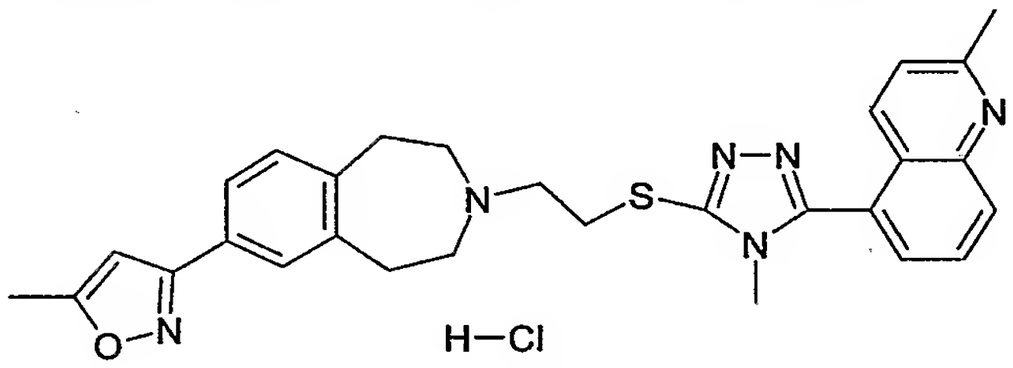
Example 2 : 7-(5-Methyl-3-isoxazolyl)-3-(2-{[4-methyl-5-(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-yl)-4*H*-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl]thio}ethyl)-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1*H*-3-benzazepine hydrochloride



The title compound was prepared in analogy to the method described in Example 1 in 27 mg yield as a white slightly hygroscopic solid (61% yield) from 4-methyl-5-(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-yl)-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole-3-thiol (20 mg).

NMR (^{1}H, MeOD): δ 7.75 (d, 1H), 7.7 (dd, 1H), 7.41 (d, 1H), 6.6 (s, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.4 (m, 1H), 4.1 (m, 2H), 3.4 (m, 2H), 4.0-3.2 (m, 12 H), 2.5 (s, 3H), 1.99 (m, 4H). **MS (*m/z*):** 454.2 $[MH]^+$

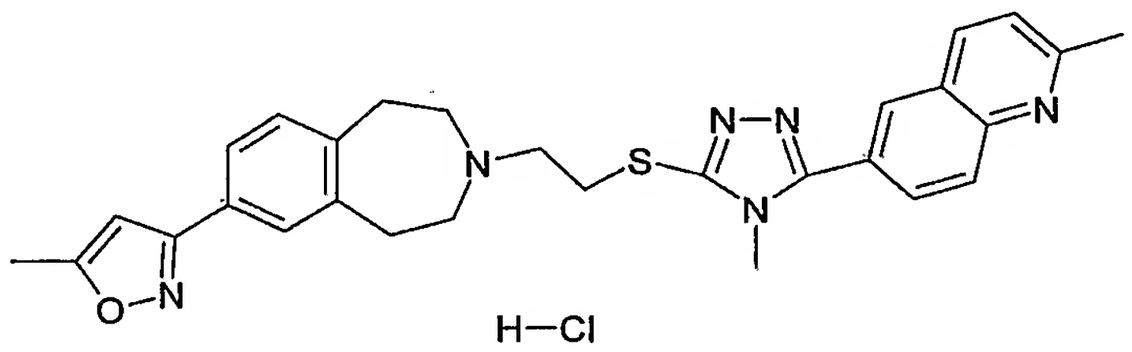
Example 3 : 7-(5-Methyl-3-isoxazolyl)-3-(2-{[4-methyl-5-(2-methyl-5-quinolinyl)-4*H*-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl]thio}ethyl)-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1*H*-3-benzazepine hydrochloride



The title compound was prepared in analogy to the method described in Example 1 in 30 mg yield as a white slightly hygroscopic solid (61% yield) from 4-methyl-5-(2-methyl-5-quinolinyl)-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole-3-thiol (27 mg).

NMR (^{1}H, MeOD): δ 8.89 (d, 1H), 8.39 (d, 1H), 8.26 (t, 1H), 8.09 (d, 1H), 7.94 (d, 1H), 7.75 (d, 1H), 7.7 (dd, 1H), 7.41 (d, 1H), 6.6 (s, 1H), 4.0 (m, 2H), 3.66-3.23 (m, 10H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.01 (s, 3H), 2.5 (s, 3H). **MS (*m/z*):** 511.2 $[MH]^+$.

Example 4: 7-(5-Methyl-3-isoxazolyl)-3-(2-{[4-methyl-5-(2-methyl-6-quinolinyl)-4*H*-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl]thio}ethyl)-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1*H*-3-benzazepine hydrochloride

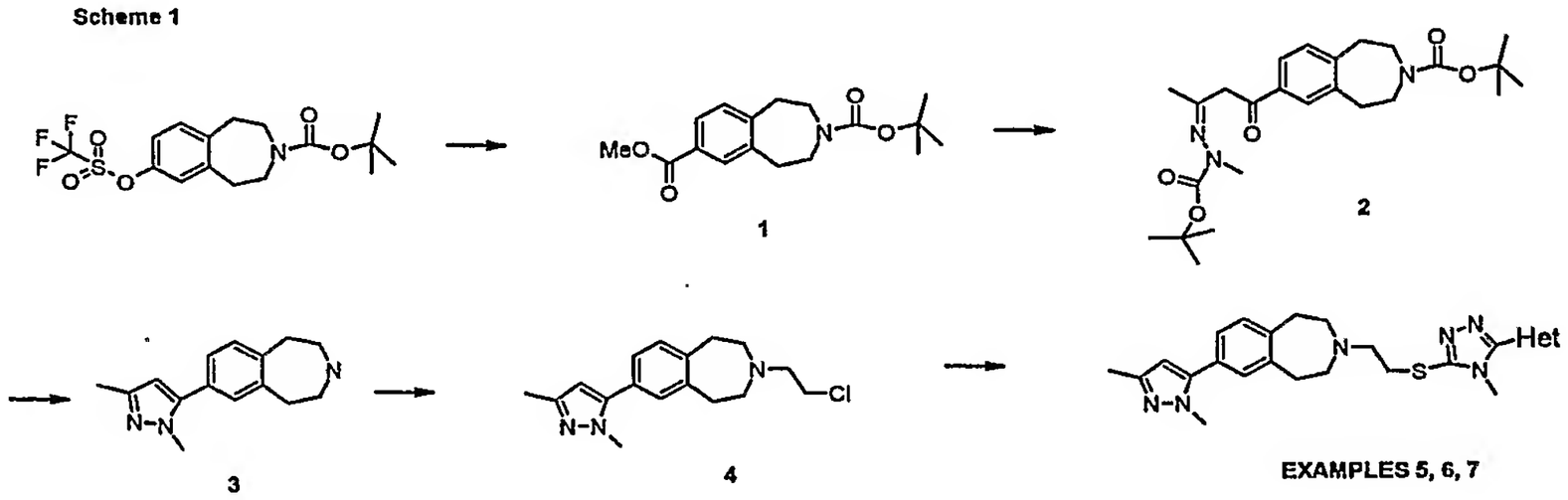


The title compound was prepared in analogy to the method described in Example 1 in 9 mg yield as a white slightly hygroscopic solid (18% yield) from 4-methyl-5-(2-methyl-6-quinolinyl)-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole-3-thiol (27 mg).

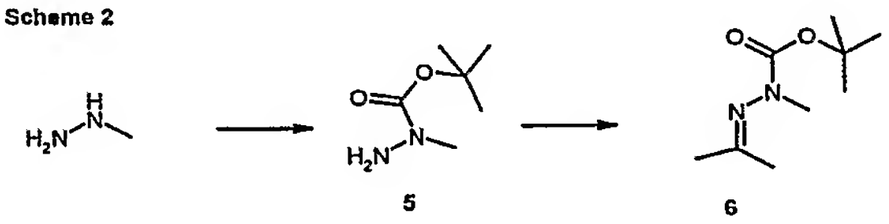
NMR (^{1}H, MeOD): δ 8.89 (d, 1H), 8.52, (d, 1H), 8.26 (dd, 1H), 8.2 (d, 1H), 7.87 (d, 1H), 7.63 (d, 1H), 7.57 (dd, 1H), 7.3 (d, 1H), 6.46 (s, 1H), 3.65, 3.73, 3.9-3.23 (s, s, bm, 15H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.65 (s, 3H), 3.01 (s, 3H), 2.5 (s, 3H). **MS (*m/z*):** 511.2 $[MH]^+$.

Synthetic routes to Examples 5, 6 and 7:

Scheme 1



Scheme 2



Scheme 3

Scheme 1

3-(1,1-Dimethylethyl)-7-methyl-1,2,4,5-tetrahydro-3H-3-benzazepine-3,7-dicarboxylate (1)

1,1-dimethylethyl-7-{[(trifluoromethyl)sulfonyl]oxy}-1,2,4,5-tetrahydro-3H-3-benzazepine-3-carboxylate (30g) (WO/200240471), palladium (II) acetate (0.51g) and 1,1'-bis(diphenylphosphino)ferrocene (1.25g) were dissolved in anhydrous dimethylformamide (75ml) and methanol (68ml) under a nitrogen atmosphere, followed by addition of triethylamine (22.74ml). The solution was purged with carbon monoxide for 15min and stirred in a round-bottom flask equipped with a reservoir filled with carbon monoxide, at 70°C for 18h. The reaction mixture was allowed to reach room temperature, then dichloromethane (300ml) and water (300ml) were added. The organic phase was separated, dried with sodium sulphate and evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by chromatography on silica gel with 90% cyclohexane-ethyl acetate elution to give the title compound (15g) as an orange oil.

^{1}H-NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ: 7.79 (m, 2H), 7.18 (m, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.57 (m, 4H), 2.95 (m, 4H), 1.48 (s, 9H).

1,1-Dimethylethyl-7-{3-[{[(1,1-dimethylethyl)oxy]carbonyl}(methyl)hydrazono]butanoyl}-1,2,4,5-tetrahydro-3*H*-3-benzazepine-3-carboxylate (2)

To a stirred solution of 1,1-dimethylethyl-1-methyl-2-(1-methylethylidene)-hydrazinecarboxylate (18.2g) (intermediate **6**) in tetrahydrofuran (80ml), at 0°C, under a nitrogen atmosphere, lithium bis(trimethylsilyl)amide (115ml, 1M/tetrahydrofuran) was added over 0.5h keeping the temperature below 5°C. After stirring for an additional hour, the reaction mixture was added *via* cannula to a stirred solution of 3-(1,1-dimethylethyl)-7-methyl-1,2,4,5-tetrahydro-3*H*-3-benzazepine-3,7-dicarboxylate (10g) (intermediate **1**) in anhydrous tetrahydrofuran (70ml), at 0°C, under a nitrogen atmosphere. Stirring was continued for 2h after which time water (300ml) was added and the reaction mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate (800ml). The organic phase was washed with brine (400ml), dried with sodium sulphate and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by chromatography on silica gel with 70% cyclohexane-ethyl acetate to give the title compound (12g) as a white solid.

^{1}H-NMR (DMSO-d_6) δ: 11.65 (s, 1H), 7.67 (d, 1H), 7.64 (dd, 1H), 7.23 (d, 1H), 5.90 (s, 1H), 3.47 (m, 4H), 3.10 (s, 3H), 2.90 (bm, 4H), 1.98 (s, 3H), 1.41 (s, 18H).

7-(1,3-Dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-5-yl)-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1*H*-3-benzazepine (3)

A solution of 1,1-dimethylethyl-7-{3-[{[(1,1 dimethylethyl)oxy]carbonyl}(methyl)hydrazono]butanoyl}-1,2,4,5-tetrahydro-3*H*-3-benzazepine-3-carboxylate (0.5g) (intermediate **2**) in dichloromethane (5ml) was added dropwise to trifluoroacetic acid (10ml) under vigorous stirring. After 1h the reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* and sodium hydroxide (1N) was added until pH ~ 12, then the mixture was extracted twice with dichloromethane. The organic phase was dried with sodium sulphate and evaporated to give the title compound (0.26g).

^{1}H-NMR (DMSO-d_6) δ: 7.2-7.1 (m, 3H), 6.06 (s, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 2.9-2.7 (m, 8H), 2.5 (3H).

3-(2-Chloroethyl)-7-(1,3-dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-5-yl)-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1*H*-3-benzazepine (4)

To a stirred solution of 7-(1,3-dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-5-yl)-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1*H*-3-benzazepine (0.6g) (intermediate 3) in 1,2-dichloroethane (10ml), 3-chloropropanal (0.64ml, 50 wt. % solution in water) and sodium triacetoxyborohydride (1.06g) were subsequently added. After stirring for 1h, the reaction was quenched with concentrated aqueous sodium hydrogencarbonate and extracted with dichloromethane. The organic phase was dried with sodium sulphate and after evaporation the crude product was purified by chromatography on silica gel with 80-20% cyclohexane-ethyl acetate elution to give the title compound (0.4g) as a pale yellow solid.

Example 5: 7-(1,3-Dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-5-yl)-3-(2-{[4-methyl-5-(2-methyl-5-quinolinyl)-4*H*-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl]-thio}ethyl)-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1*H*-3-benzazepine hydrochloride

To a stirred solution of 3-(2-chloroethyl)-7-(1,3-dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-5-yl)-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1*H*-3-benzazepine (0.13g) (intermediate 4) and 4-methyl-5-(2-methyl-5-quinolinyl)-2,4-dihydro-3*H*-1,2,4-triazole-3-thione (0.11g) (intermediate 7) in dimethylformamide (2ml), at room temperature, N,N-diisopropylethylamine (0.09ml) and sodium iodide (0.06g) were subsequently added. The reaction mixture was warmed to 70°C and stirring continued for 3h after which time the mixture was allowed to reach room temperature and the solvent evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was treated with water (10ml) and extracted with ethyl acetate (20ml). The organic phase was dried with sodium sulphate, evaporated under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by chromatography on silica gel with 100-95% dichloromethane-methanol elution to give 7-(1,3-dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-5-yl)-3-(1-methyl-3-{[4-methyl-5-(2-methyl-5-quinolinyl)-4*H*-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl]thio}propyl)-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1*H*-3-benzazepine (0.040g) as a pale yellow solid. This product was dissolved in dichloromethane (2ml), and hydrochloridric acid was added dropwise (0.072ml, 1M/ether), at room temperature. Following solvent evaporation gave the title compound (0.042g) as a yellow solid.

^{1}H-NMR (DMSO-d_6) δ: 10.82 (bs, 1H), 8.26 (d, 1H), 8.19 (d, 1H), 7.92 (t, 1H), 7.80 (d, 1H), 7.56 (d, 1H), 7.37 (m, 3H), 6.16 (m, 1H), 3.90-3.80 (bm, 2H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.70 (m, 2H), 3.65 (m, 2H), 3.46 (s, 3H), 3.50-3.10 (bm, 6H), 2.74 (s, 3H), 2.17 (s, 3H).

Example 6: 7-(1,3-Dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-5-yl)-3-(2-{[4-methyl-5-(5-methyl-2-pyrazinyl)-4*H*-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl]thio}ethyl)-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1*H*-3-benzazepine hydrochloride

To a stirred solution of 3-(2-chloroethyl)-7-(1,3-dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-5-yl)-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1*H*-3-benzazepine (0.13g) (intermediate 4) and 4-methyl-5-(5-methyl-2-pyrazinyl)-2,4-dihydro-3*H*-1,2,4-triazole-3-thione (0.09g) (intermediate 8) in dimethylformamide (2ml), at room temperature, N,N-diisopropylethylamine (0.09ml) and sodium iodide (0.06g) were subsequently added. The reaction mixture was warmed to 70°C and stirring continued for 3h after which time the mixture was allowed to reach room temperature and the solvent evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was treated with water (10ml) and extracted with ethyl acetate (20ml). The organic phase was dried with sodium sulphate, evaporated under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by chromatography on silica gel with 100-95% dichloromethane-methanol elution to give 7-(1,3-dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-5-yl)-3-(2-{[4-methyl-5-(5-methyl-2-pyrazinyl)-4*H*-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl]thio}ethyl)-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1*H*-3-benzazepine (0.036g) as a yellow solid. This product was dissolved in dichloromethane (2ml), and hydrochloridric acid was added dropwise (0.076ml, 1M/ether), at room temperature. Following solvent evaporation gave the title compound (0.038g) as a yellow solid.

^{1}H-NMR (DMSO-d_6) δ: 10.65 (bs, 1H), 9.18 (d, 1H), 8.71 (d, 1H), 7.35 (m, 3H), 6.15 (s, 1H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.80-3.70 (bm, 2H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.66 (m, 2H), 3.58 (m, 2H), 3.40-3.30 (bm, 2H), 3.15 (bm, 4H), 2.61 (s, 3H), 2.16 (s, 3H).

Example 7: 3-(2-{[5-(3,4-Difluorophenyl)-4-methyl-4*H*-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl]thio}ethyl)-7-(1,3-dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-5-yl)-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1*H*-3-benzazepine hydrochloride

To a stirred solution of 3-(2-chloroethyl)-7-(1,3-dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-5-yl)-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1*H*-3-benzazepine (0.13g) (intermediate 4) and 5-(3,4-difluorophenyl)-4-methyl-2,4-dihydro-3*H*-1,2,4-triazole-3-thione (0.1g) (intermediate 9) in dimethylformamide (2ml), at room temperature, N,N-diisopropylethylamine (0.09ml) and sodium iodide (0.06g) were subsequently added. The reaction mixture was warmed to 70°C and stirring continued for 3h after which time the mixture was allowed to reach room temperature and the solvent evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was treated with water (10ml) and extracted with ethyl acetate (20ml). The organic phase was dried with sodium sulphate, evaporated under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by chromatography on silica gel with 100-95% dichloromethane-methanol elution to give 3-(2-{[5-(3,4-difluorophenyl)-4-methyl-4*H*-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl]thio}ethyl)-7-(1,3-dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-5-yl)-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1*H*-3-benzazepine (0.05g) as a pale white solid. This product was dissolved in dichloromethane (2ml), and hydrochloridric acid was added dropwise (0.10ml, 1M/ether), at room temperature. Following solvent evaporation gave the title compound (0.053g) as a yellow solid.

^{1}H-NMR (DMSO-d_6) δ: 10.65 (bs, 1H), 7.85 (ddd, 1H), 7.63 (m, 1H), 7.35 (m, 3H), 6.15 (s, 1H), 3.80-3.70 (bm, 2H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.65 (s, 3H), 3.63 (m, 2H), 3.58 (m, 2H), 3.40-3.30 (bm, 2H), 3.15 (bm, 4H), 2.17 (s, 3H).

Scheme 2: route to intermediate **6**

1,1-Dimethylethyl-1-methylhydrazine carboxylate (5)

To a solution of methylhydrazine (100g) in anhydrous tetrahydrofuran (1.8L), cooled at 5°C and stirred with a mechanic equipment, a solution of di-tert-butyl dicarbonate (498g) in anhydrous tetrahydrofuran (600ml) was added keeping this temperature for 0.5h. Then water (500ml) was added, followed by ethyl acetate (2L). The organic phase was washed with water (2L), brine (1.6L) and dried with sodium sulphate, to give after evaporation under reduced pressure the title compound (230g) as a white solid.

^{1}H-NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ: 3.84 (broad, 2H), 3.02 (s, 3H), 1.42 (s, 9H)

1,1-Dimethylethyl-1-methyl-2-(1-methylethylidene) hydrazinecarboxylate (6)

To a stirred solution of 1,1-dimethylethyl-1-methylhydrazine carboxylate (179g) (intermediate **5**) in diethyl ether (2L), at room temperature, acetone (126ml), glacial acid acetic (7.7ml) and sodium acetate (1.27g) were added. After stirring over night, the reaction mixture was quenched with water, the organic phase was dried with sodium sulphate and the solvent evaporated to give the title compound (182.38g) as a colourless oil.

^{1}H-NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ: 3.01 (s, 3H), 2.01 (s, 3H), 1.83 (s, 3H), 1.42 (s, 9H).

Scheme 3: route to intermediates **7, 8, 9**

4-Methyl-5-(2-methyl-5-quinolinyl)-2,4-dihydro-3*H*-1,2,4-triazole-3-thione (7)

Hydroxybenzotriazole (7.8g), 1-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-3-ethylcarbodiimide hydrochloride (11g) and triethylamine were successively added to a stirred solution of 2-methyl-5-quinolinecarboxylic acid (10g) and 4-methyl-3-thiosemicarbazide (6.1g) in dimethylformamide (200ml), at 0°C. Following the addiction the reaction mixture was allowed to reach room temperature, the stirred continued over night and then the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was treated with an aqueous sodium hydroxide solution (500ml, 0.5N) and the mixture was stirred at 80°C for 3h, after which time the mixture was cooled to room temperature and the pH adjusted to pH 6 using a aqueous hydrochloridric acid solution (2M) and the resulting precipitate was filtered and dried *in vacuo* to give the title compound (11g) as an off-white solid.
^{1}H-NMR (DMSO-d_6) δ: 14 (broad, 1H), 8.17 (dd, 1H), 8.15 (dd, 1H), 7.89 (m, 1H), 7.85 (dd, 1H), 7.52 (dd, 1H), 3.32 (s, 3H), 2.70 (s, 3H).

4-Methyl-5-(5-methyl-2-pyrazinyl)-2,4-dihydro-3*H*-1,2,4-triazole-3-thione (8)

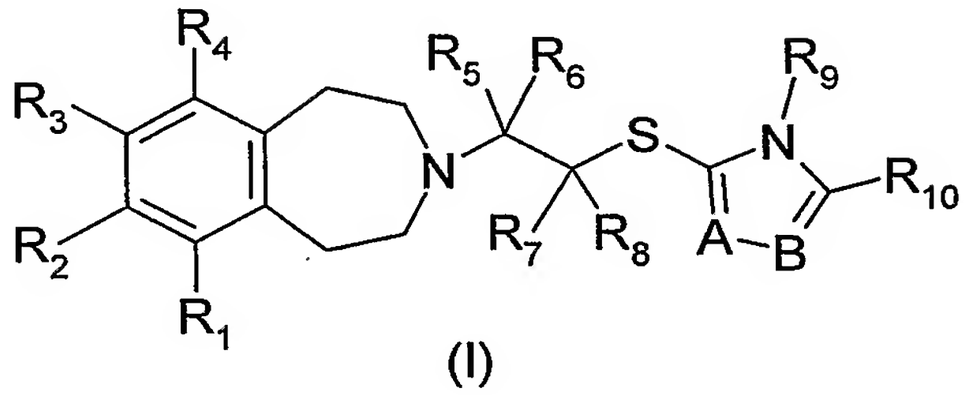
Hydroxybenzotriazole (1.08g) and 1-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-3-ethylcarbodiimide hydrochloride (1.53g) were successively added to a stirred solution of 5-methyl-2-pyrazinecarboxylic acid (1g) and 4-methyl-3-thiosemicarbazide (0.84g) in dimethylformamide (20ml), at 0°C. Following the addiction the reaction mixture was allowed to reach room temperature, the stirred continued over night and then the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was treated with an aqueous sodium hydroxide solution (10ml, 0.5N) and the mixture was stirred at 80°C for 3h, after which time the mixture was cooled to room temperature and the pH adjusted to pH 6 using a aqueous hydrochloridric acid solution (2M) and the resulting precipitate was filtered and dried *in vacuo* to give the title compound (1.30g) as an off-white solid.
^{1}H-NMR (DMSO-d_6) δ: 14 (bs, 1H), 8.94 (s, 1H), 8.60 (s, 1H), 3.68 (s, 3H), 2.50 (s, 3H).

5-(3,4-Difluorophenyl)-4-methyl-2,4-dihydro-3*H*-1,2,4-triazole-3-thione (9)

Hydroxybenzotriazole (4.22g) and 1-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-3-ethylcarbodiimide hydrochloride (5.99g) were successively added to a stirred solution of 3,4-difluorobenzoic acid (4.49g) and 4-methyl-3-thiosemicarbazide (3.28g) in dimethylformamide (80ml), at 0°C. Following the addiction the reaction mixture was allowed to reach room temperature, the stirred continued over night and then the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was treated with an aqueous sodium hydroxide solution (250ml, 0.5N) and the mixture was stirred at 80°C for 3h, after which time the mixture was cooled to room temperature and the pH adjusted to pH 6 using a aqueous hydrochloridric acid solution (2M) and the resulting precipitate was filtered and dried *in vacuo* to give the title compound (4.1g) as an off-white solid.
^{1}H-NMR (DMSO-d_6) δ: 13.95 (bs, 1H), 7.90 (m, 1H), 7.65 (m, 2H), 3.50 (s, 3H).

Claims

1. A compound of formula (I) or a salt thereof:



(I)

wherein

- R_1 and R_4 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, bromo, C_{1-2}alkyl, C_1alkoxy, haloC_{1-2}alkyl, haloC_1alkoxy, hydroxy, cyano and nitro;
- R_2 and R_3 are independently selected from the group consisting of: halogen, hydroxy, cyano, nitro, C_{1-4}alkyl, haloC_{1-4}alkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, haloC_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkoxyC_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkylthio, C_{1-4}alkoxyC_{1-4}alkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkylC_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkanoyl, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonylC_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulfonyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulfonyloxy, haloC_{1-4}alkylsulfonyl, haloC_{1-4}alkylsulfonyloxy, C_{1-4}alkylsulfonylC_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulfonamido, C_{1-4}alkylsulfonamidoC_{1-4}alkyl, heterocyclyl, aryl, arylC_{1-4}alkoxy, aryloxy, arylthio, arylmethyl, aroyl, aryloxymethyl, arylsulfonyl, aryl-NR'- (wherein R' is hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl), arylsulfonyloxy, arylsulfonylC_{1-4}alkyl, arylsulfonamido, arylcarboxamido, arylsulfonamidoC_{1-4}alkyl, arylcarboxamidoC_{1-4}alkyl, aroylC_{1-4}alkyl, arylC_{1-4}alkanoyl, a group $R_{11}CON(R_{12})(CH_2)_r$, $R_{11}R_{12}NCO(CH_2)r$ or $R_{11}R_{12}NSO_2(CH_2)_r$ (in which r is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4, and each of R_{11} and R_{12} is independently hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl, or in the groups $R_{11}CON(R_{12})(CH_2)_r$, $R_{11}R_{12}NCO(CH_2)_r$ and $R_{11}R_{12}NSO_2(CH_2)_r$, $R_{11}CONR_{12}$ or $R_{11}R_{12}N$ together form a 4-, 5-, 6- or 7-membered azacyclic group optionally containing one additional O, N or S atom in the azacycle and having 3-8 carbon atoms (including the carbon atoms contained in any optional substituent(s) of the azacycle)); wherein in any group containing an aryl moiety, the aryl may be substituted by one, two or three groups selected from the group consisting of halogen, hydroxy, cyano, nitro, amino, C_{1-4}alkyl, haloC_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, haloC_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkylenedioxy, C_{1-4}alkanoyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulfonyl, haloC_{1-4}alkylsulfonyl, C_{1-4}alkylamino, C_{1-4}dialkylamino, $R_{13}R_{14}NCO$ (in which R_{13} and R_{14} are independently hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl, or $R_{13}R_{14}N$ together form a 4-, 5-, 6- or 7-membered azacyclic group optionally containing one additional O, N or S atom in the azacycle and having 3-8 carbon atoms (including the carbon atoms contained in any optional substituent(s) of the azacycle));
- A and B are independently N or CH;

- R_5, R_6, R_7, R_8 and R_9 are independently hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl;
- R_{10} is a group of the formula (a) or (b):

(a) (b)

wherein:

- Z is C_{1-4}alkyl, haloC_{1-4}alkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, phenyl, heterocyclyl, a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic ring or a 8- to 11-membered bicyclic group, any of which is optionally substituted by 1, 2, 3 or 4 substituents selected from the group consisting of: halogen, hydroxy, oxo, cyano, nitro, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, haloC_{1-4}alkyl, haloC_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkylenedioxy, C_{1-4}alkanoyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulfonyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulfonyloxy, haloC_{1-4}alkylsulfonyl, haloC_{1-4}alkylsulfonyloxy, C_{1-4}alkylsulfinyl, C_{1-4}alkylthio, $R_{17}SO_2N(R_{18})$-, $R_{17}R_{18}NSO_2$-, $R_{17}R_{18}N$-, $R_{17}R_{18}NCO$-, $R_{17}CONR_{18}$- and a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic ring which is optionally substituted by one or two C_{1-2}alkyl, haloC_{1-2}alkyl or $R_{17}R_{18}N$- (wherein R_{17} and R_{18} are independently hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl, or R_{17} and R_{18} together form C_{3-6}alkylene); and wherein substituents positioned *ortho* to one another may be linked to form a 5- or 6-membered ring; and
- R_{15} and R_{16} are independently hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl and t is 1, 2, 3 or 4, or -($CR_{15}R_{16}$)t- forms a C_{3-6}cycloalkylene linker.

2. A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein R_3 is hydrogen.

3. A compound as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein R_2 is C_{1-4}alkyl, haloC_{1-4}alkyl, halogen, C_{1-4}alkylsulfonyl (e.g. methylsulfonyl or ethylsulfonyl), haloC_{1-4}alkylsulfonyl (e.g. trifluoromethylsulfonyl), C_{1-4}alkylsulfonyloxy (e.g. methylsulfonyloxy), haloC_{1-4}alkylsulfonyloxy (e.g. trifluoromethylsulfonyloxy), $R_{11}R_{12}NSO_2$ (where each of R_{11} and R_{12} is independently hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl or $R_{11}R_{12}N$ together form a 4-, 5-, 6- or 7-membered azacyclic group optionally containing one additional O, N or S atom in the azacycle and having 3-8 carbon atoms, e.g. a piperidin-1-ylsulfonyl, pyrrolidin-1-ylsulfonyl or 1,4-morpholin-4-ylsulfonyl), a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic or a heterocyclyl, each of which is optionally substituted by one or two substituents selected from: halogen, cyano, C_{1-2}alkyl (e.g. methyl or trifluoromethyl), C_{1-2}alkoxy (e.g. methoxy), C_{1-2}alkylenedioxy (e.g. methylenedioxy), C_{1-3}alkanoyl (e.g. acetyl), C_2alkanoylamino (e.g.acetylamino), haloC_1alkylsulfonyl (e.g. trifluoromethylsulfonyl) and methylsulfonyl.

4. A compound as claimed in claim 3, wherein R_2 is bromo, cyano, hydroxy, chloro, methoxy, tert-butyl, methylsulfonyl, ethylsulfonyl, N,N-dimethylaminosulfonyl, pyrrolidin-1-ylsulfonyl, 1,4-morpholin-4-ylsulfonyl, methylsulfonyloxy, pyrazolyl (eg pyrazol-5-yl), 1,3-dimethyl-pyrazol-5-yl, pyrazin-2-yl, 5-methyl-oxazol-2-yl or 5-methyl-isoxazol-3-yl.

5. A compound as claimed in any of claims 1-4 wherein both R_1 and R_4 are hydrogen.

6. A compound as claimed in any of claims 1-5, wherein A and B are both nitrogen.

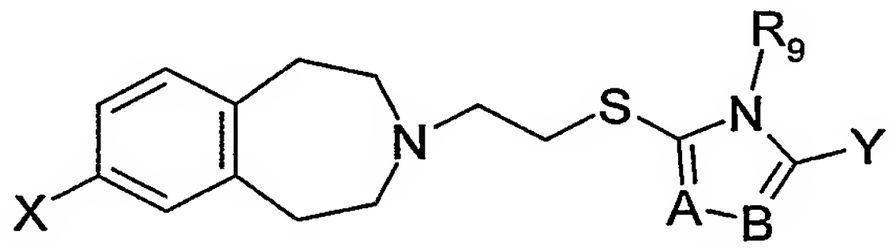
7. A compound as claimed in any of claims 1-6 wherein R_5, R_6, R_7 and R_8 are all hydrogen.

8. A compound as claimed in any of claims 1-7, wherein R_9 is methyl.

9. A compound as claimed in any of claims 1-8, wherein R_{10} is a group of formula (a).

10. A compound as claimed in claim 9, wherein in formula (a), Z is phenyl, fluorophenyl, or quinolinyl, each of which is unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents selected from: halogen, or cyano, C_{1-2}alkyl (e.g. methyl), haloC_{1-2}alkyl (e.g. trifluoromethyl), C_{1-2}alkoxy (e.g. methoxy), haloC_{1-4}alkoxy (e.g. trifluoromethoxy), C_{1-2}alkylenedioxy (e.g. methylenedioxy), C_{2-3}alkanoyl (e.g. acetyl), C_2alkanoylamino (e.g.acetylamino), methylsulfonyl, haloC_1alkylsulfonyl (e.g. trifluoromethylsulfonyl), C_1alkylsulfonyloxy (e.g. methylsulfonyloxy), C_1alkylaminosulfonyl (e.g. methylaminosulfonyl), C_1alkylsulfonylamino (e.g. methylsulfonylamino) and C_1alkylaminocarbonyl (e.g. methylaminocarbonyl).

11. A compound as claimed in claim 1 having a formula (IA) or a salt thereof:



(IA)

wherein:

- A, B and R_9 are as defined in claim 1;
- X is a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic ring optionally substituted by 1, 2 or 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of: halogen, cyano, C_{1-2}alkyl, fluoroC_{1-2}alkyl, C_{1-2}alkoxy, C_{1-3}alkanoyl, C_2alkanoylamino, fluoroC_1alkylsulfonyl and methylsulfonyl; and
- Y is heterocyclyl, a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic ring or a 8- to 11-membered bicyclic group, any of which is optionally substituted by 1, 2, 3 or 4 substituents selected from the group consisting of: halogen, cyano, C_{1-2}alkyl, haloC_{1-2}alkyl, C_{1-2}alkoxy, haloC_{1-2}alkoxy, C_{1-2}alkylenedioxy, C_{2-3}alkanoyl, C_2alkanoylamino, methylsulfonyl, haloC_1alkylsulfonyl, methylsulfonyloxy, methylaminosulfonyl, methylsulfonylamino and methylaminocarbonyl.

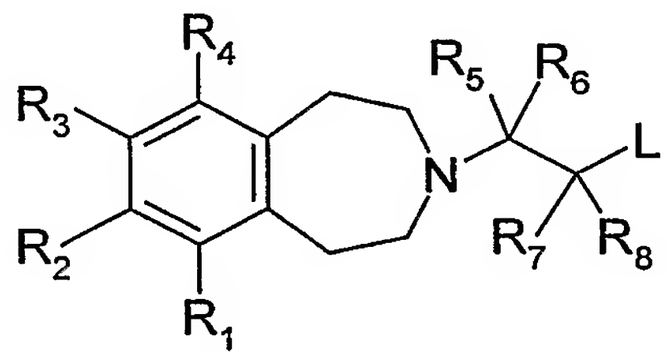
12. A compound as claimed in claim 1, which is:

- 7-(5-Methyl-3-isoxazolyl)-3-(2-{[4-methyl-1,3-oxazol-5yl)-4H-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl]thio}ethyl)-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1H-3-benzazepine
- 7-(5-Methyl-3-isoxazolyl)-3-(2-{[4-methyl-5-(tetrahydro-2H-pyran-4-yl)-4H-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl]thio}ethyl)-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1H-3-benzazepine
- 7-(5-Methyl-3-isoxazolyl)-3-(2-{[4-methyl-5-(2-methyl-5-quinolinyl)-4H-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl]thio}ethyl)-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1H-3-benzazepine
- 7-(5-Methyl-3-isoxazolyl)-3-(2-{[4-methyl-5-(2-methyl-6-quinolinyl)-4H-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl]thio}ethyl)-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1H-3-benzazepine
- 7-(1,3-Dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-5-yl)-3-(2-{[4-methyl-5-(2-methyl-5-quinolinyl)-4*H*-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl]thio}ethyl)-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1*H*-3-benzazepine
- 7-(1,3-Dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-5-yl)-3-(2-{[4-methyl-5-(5-methyl-2-pyrazinyl)-4*H*-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl]thio}ethyl)-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1*H*-3-benzazepine
- 3-(2-{[5-(3,4-Difluorophenyl)-4-methyl-4*H*-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl]thio}ethyl)-7-(1,3-dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-5-yl)-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1*H*-3-benzazepine

or a salt thereof.

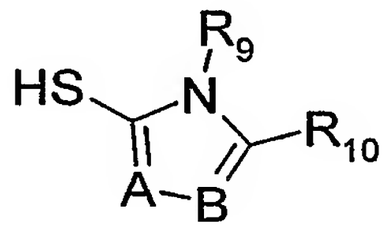
13. A process for preparing a compound as defined in claim 1, which process comprises:

(a) reacting a compound of formula (II):



(II)

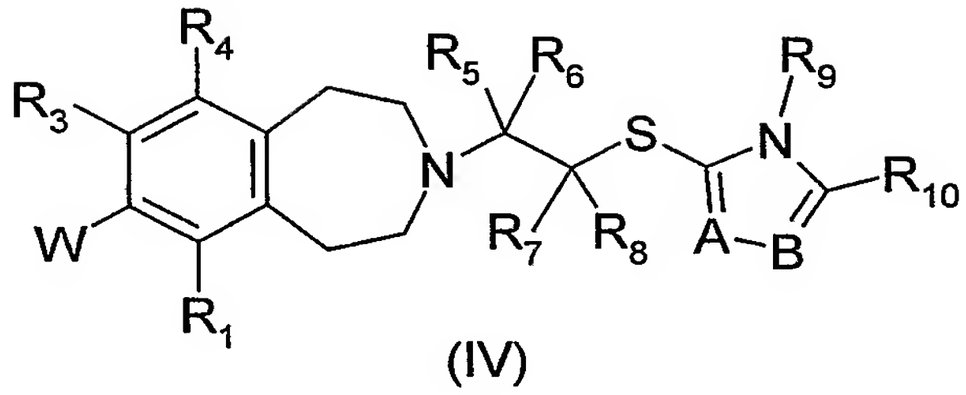
wherein R_1 to R_8 are as defined for formula (I) and L is a leaving group; with a compound of formula (III):



(III)

wherein A, B, R_9 and R_{10} are as defined for formula (I); or

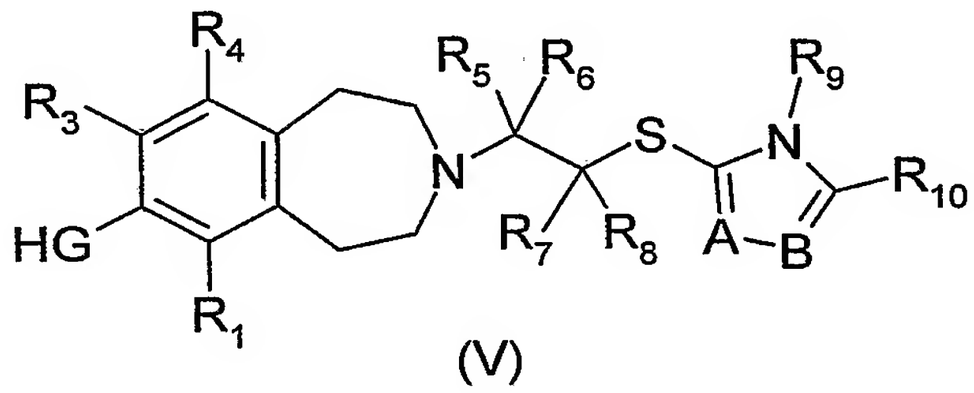
(b) for a compound of formula (I) wherein R_2 is aryl, reacting a compound of formula (IV):



(IV)

wherein R_1, R_3 to R_{10}, A and B are as defined for formula (I) and W is halogen or a trifluoromethylsulfonyloxy group, or W is a group M selected from a boron derivative (e.g. a boronic acid function $B(OH)_2$) or a metal function such as trialkylstannyl (e.g. $SnBu_3$), zinc halide or magnesium halide; with a compound aryl-W^1, wherein aryl is as defined for formula (I), W^1 is halogen or a trifluoromethylsulfonyloxy group when W is a group M or W^1 is a group M as defined above when W is halogen or a trifluoromethylsulfonyloxy group; or

(c) for a compound of formula (I) wherein R_2 is aryloxy or arylthio, reacting a compound of formula (V):



(V)

wherein G is oxygen or sulfur, and R_1, R_3 to R_{10}, A and B are as defined for formula (I); with a reagent serving to introduce the aryl group;

and optionally thereafter for any of the steps (a), (b) or (c):

- removing any protecting group(s); and/or
- forming a salt; and/or
- converting one compound of formula (I) to a different compound of formula (I).

14. A method of treating a condition for which modulation of dopamine D_3 receptors is beneficial, which comprises administering to a mammal (e.g. human) in need thereof an effective amount of a compound of a compound of any of claims 1-12.

15. A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the condition is substance abuse and/or drug dependency.

16. A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the condition is craving for abused substance and/or relapse to drug seeking and drug taking behaviour.

17. Use of a compound as claimed in any of claims 1-12 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a condition in a mammal for which modulation of dopamine D3 receptors is beneficial.

18. Use as claimed in claim 17, wherein the condition is substance abuse and/or drug dependency.

19. Use as claimed in claim 18, wherein the condition is craving for abused substance and/or relapse to drug seeking and drug taking behaviour.

20. A compound as claimed in any of claims 1-12 for use in therapy.

21. A compound as claimed in any of claims 1-12 for use in the treatment of a condition in a mammal for which modulation of dopamine D3 receptors is beneficial.

22. A compound as claimed in any of claims 1-12 for use in the treatment of substance abuse and/or drug dependency.

23. A compound as claimed in any of claims 1-12 for use in the treatment of craving for abused substance and/or relapse to drug seeking and drug taking behaviour.

24. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound as claimed in any of claims 1-12 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.